

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 00271 271326Z

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ACTION COME-00

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R 271146Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8097

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 271

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, AR, UY

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: DEEP WATER PORT

REF: A) BA 8348 OF 11/14/74

B) BA 8421 OF 11/18/74

C) MVD 3184 OF 11/8/74

1. FIVE CONSULTING FIRMS WEREINVITED BY GOU TO PRESENT PROPOSALS FOR DEEP WATER PORT PREFEASIBILITY STUDIES (REF C).EMBASSY RELIABLY INFORMED THAT ONLY ONE COMPANY, FREDERICK R. HARRIS OF NEW YORK, HAS RESPONDED TO INVITATION. OTHER FIRMS ALLEGEDLY DO NOT CONSIDER FINANCIAL ASPECTS SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE, WHILE HARRIS HAS ALREADY DONE WORK IN ARGENTINA (REF B). GOU DEEP WATER PORT ADVISORY COMMISSION PRESENTLY STUDYING HARRIS' STATEMENT OF TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSAL. IF APPROVED, FINANCIAL TERMS WILL THEN BE NEGOTIATED.

2. COMMENT: WE AGREE COMMENT PARA 2 REF (A) THAT THER IS SOME QUESTION QHETHER TWO DEEP WATER PORTS LOCATED WITHIN 500 KILOMETERS OF EACH OTHER ARE JUSTIFIABLE. AS INDICATED ABOVE, GOU CONTINUES TOMOVE AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS, AT LEAST TO STUDY FEASIBILITY OF A URUGUAYAN LOCATION. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECULATION HERE THAT GOAPROJECT TO DEVELOP DEEP WATER PORT AT PUNTA MEDANOS HAS BEEN PUT IN ABEYANCE BECASUE EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT COST WOULD BE \$1 BILLION.

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Message Attributes

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